

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04596 291025Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /067 W  
-----000525 291209Z /47

R 290731Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5024  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 4596

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS ET IT  
SUBJECT: LIFE IN KEREN

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GUIDI TOLD ME IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE EVENING JULY 27 THAT HE HAS PROBLEMS WITH HIS ITALIAN CITIZENS WHO CHOSE REMAIN BEHIND IN KEREN WHEN IT FELL TO ERITREAN INSURGENTS. ACCORDING GUIDI, WHO WAS UNABLE PERSUADE HIS APPROX 40 CITIZENS TO LEAVE CITY (ALL OLD-TIME RESIDENTS) BEFORE KEREN FELL, HE UNDERSTANDS CITIZENS INITIALLY WELCOMED PLF INSURGENTS. JOY APPARENTLY WAS SHORT-LIVED. WHILE ITALIANS HAVE NOT BEEN HARMED, GUIDI NOW HEARS THAT INSURGENTS HAVE TAKEN OVER THEIR PROPERTY IN NAME OF SOCIALISM.

2. GUIDI SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHETHER ANYTHING CAN BE DONE, BUT HE IS RECOMMENDING THAT ITALIANS USE SOME OF THEIR CLOSELY-HELD CONTACTS WITH PLF OUTSIDE ERITREA TO TRY AND HELP.

3. COMMENT: GUIDI IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING DOWN ROAD TO POSSIBLE FALL OF ASMARA WHERE HE STILL HAS APPROX 1000  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04596 291025Z

CITIZENS AND TO PROBLEMS HE MAY FACE THERE. HE DOES EXPECT NUMBER OF ASMARA RESIDENTS TO LEAVE SOON IN WAKE OF DECISION JUST COMMUNICATED TO EPMG TO CLOSE ITALIAN-RUN AND -STAFFED SCHOOLS THERE, BUT HE ANTICIPATES MANY WILL REMAIN HOPING FOR RETURN OF GOOD OLD DAYS. SCHOOL PROBLEM AROSE WITH CLOSURE OF ITALIAN CONGEN IN APRIL AND WAS NEVER RESOLVED.

TIENKEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, ET, IT  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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